

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicants : | Ralf MEYER et al. |) | |
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| Appln. No. : | Not yet assigned |) | Group Art Unit: Unknown |
| | |) | |
| Filed : | Concurrently herewith |) | Examiner: Unknown |
| | |) | |
| For : | PROCESS AND DEVICE FOR ASSEMBLING GROUPS OF FILTER SEGMENTS | | |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration.

- (1) German Patent Application No. 24 52 749 published May 20, 1976, which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0004];
- (2) Great Britain Patent Specification No. 1 522 139 published August 23, 1978, which is a family member of item (1) and discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0004];
- (3) German Patent Application No. 25 34 666 published April 29, 1976, which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0006];
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 4,044,659 issued August 30, 1977 to BARDENHAGEN et al., which is a U.S. patent family member of item (3) and discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0006]; and

(5) German Patent Application No. 101 55 292 published May 15, 2003, which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0007].

The following documents were cited in a Search Report conducted in European Patent Application No. 02 019 534, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

(6) International Publication No. WO 96/39880 published December 19, 1996 as an “X” category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone) with regard to claims 1, 6, and 11 of the European application. The Examiner noted Figure 7A as being particularly relevant. The Examiner also cited this document as a “Y” category document (i.e., a document that calls into question the inventive step when considered with another document from this category) with regard to claim 13 of the European application. Moreover, for the Examiner’s convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,666,976 issued September 16, 1997 to ADAMS, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited International publication;

(7) French Patent Application No. 1.540.880 published September 27, 1968 as an “X” category document with regard to claims 1 and 11 of the European application. The Examiner noted Figure 4 as being particularly relevant. Moreover, for the Examiner’s convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 3,357,320 issued February 5, 1965 to SEXSTONE et al., which is identified by the

Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited French publication;

(8) European Patent Application No. 0 383 970 published August 29, 1990 as an "X" category document with regard to claims 6 and 11 of the European application.

The Examiner noted Figure 13 as being particularly relevant. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 4,943,272 issued July 24, 1990 to HIROSE et al., which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited International publication;

(9) U.K. Patent Specification No. 2 267 021 published November 24, 1993 as an "X" category document with regard to claims 6 and 11 of the European application.

The Examiner noted Figure 2 as being particularly relevant;

(10) U.S. Patent No. 3,143,202 issued August 4, 1964 to ROWLANDS as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1 and 11 of the European application. The

Examiner noted Figures 4A and 4B as being particularly relevant. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 3,131,612 issued May 5, 1964 to ROWLANDS, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited International publication; and

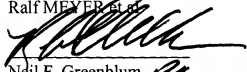
(11) U.S. Patent No. 3,308,832 issued March 14, 1967 to SELZER et al. as a "Y" category document with regard to claim 13 of the European application. The Examiner noted Figure 11 as being particularly relevant.

Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Moreover, copies of the European Search Report and of the cited non-U.S. patent documents are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. While any copies of these U.S. documents will be provided to the Examiner upon request, Applicants note that consideration of such documents by the Examiner cannot be conditioned upon receipt of the same from the Applicants or the undersigned.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralf MEYER et al.


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| Form PTO-1449 | | U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office | | Atty. Docket No. P23941 | | Serial No. Not Yet Assigned | | | | | | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | Applicant R. MEYER et al. | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Filing Date Concurrently herewith | | Group Unknown | | | | | | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | | | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE | | | | |
| | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 09/16/97 | ADAMS et al. | | | |
| | 4 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 07/24/90 | HIROSE et al. | | | |
| | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 08/30/77 | BARDENHAGEN et al. | | | |
| | 3 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 12/12/67 | SEXSTONE et al. | | | |
| | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 08/04/64 | ROWLANDS | | | |
| | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 05/05/64 | ROWLANDS | | | |
| | 3 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 03/14/67 | STELZER et al. | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | DOCUMENT NUMBER | | | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO | | | | |
| | 2 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 05/20/76 | GERMANY | | | |
| | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 08/23/78 | UNITED KINGDOM | | | |
| | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 04/29/76 | GERMANY | | | |
| | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 05/15/03 | GERMANY | | | |
| | 9 | 6 | / | 3 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 12/19/66 | W.I.P.O. | | | |
| | 1 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 09/27/68 | FRANCE | | | |
| | | 3 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 08/29/90 | E.P.O. | | | |
| | 2 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 11/24/93 | UNITED KINGDOM | | | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.